

That is why I am proud to have joined Senator ELIZABETH WARREN, Congressman HANK JOHNSON, and a group of colleagues to introduce the Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety Act.

This bold reform includes my bill to strengthen gun shop regulations and prevent the theft of legal firearms. Over 30 percent of guns used in a crime are identified as stolen, and every one we keep out of the hands of the wrong people is a step closer to a safer reality for our Nation. The time to act is now.

SUPPORTING MAGNET SCHOOLS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am grateful to be recognized by the Magnet Schools of America as a Champion of Magnet School Excellence and to be a steadfast supporter of magnet schools. I appreciate that President Donald Trump's praising of magnet schools was included last night in the State of the Union.

Last week, I had the opportunity to visit Dutch Fork Elementary School Academy of Environmental Sciences, a magnet school in Irmo, South Carolina. Dutch Fork is one of many amazing examples of how magnet schools are important for academic excellence. I had the opportunity to meet with students and teachers and talk with them about their unique educational experiences.

I was thankful to talk with Katrina Goggins, the Director of Communications for District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties, Principal Julius Scott, Assistant Principal Brandon Gantt, School District Five Magnet Director Sara Wheeler, and Shirley Cope.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism with the courageous leadership of President Donald Trump.

HONORING THE UNBREAKABLE BOND OF MARK AND DAVID CARLES

(Mr. ROSE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mark and David Carles, two brothers with an unbreakable bond.

Ever since they were kids growing up on Staten Island, Mark and his older brother, David, have been absolutely inseparable. When Mark was diagnosed with a rare form of liver cancer in October of 2018, David postponed his baseball career to take care of his brother.

While Mark was using a breathing tube and unable to speak, the brothers communicated using sign language. After a life-threatening surgery, the first thing Mark did was sign David's name.

Mark is a talented runner who, with David's support, refused to let chemotherapy get in the way of his training, whether it was doing laps down hospital corridors or running around the dining room table.

The brothers have even encouraged their father, Sandy, to run with them as well. All three train for road races together. Mark recently finished the Staten Island Athletic Club 5K in under 24 minutes.

Mark and David, your deep commitment to one another is an inspiration to Staten Island, all of New York City, and all of America.

Mark, you are a fighter. You inspire your family, your friends, and all those who you fight for as well.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF METAMORA HIGH SCHOOL COACH PAT RYAN

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in the House to recognize and congratulate Metamora High School head football coach Pat Ryan, who has announced his retirement after 30 years at the helm of the program.

Over his 30-year tenure, Coach Ryan has led the Redbirds to seven championship games and two State titles. He retires with a record of 268–76, and a spot in the Illinois High School Football Hall of Fame.

Coach Ryan's greatness is known across central Illinois. His players love him. His students love him. Even his rivals love him, or at least love competing against him.

Not only is Coach Ryan a legend on the field, but his success off the field in modeling young men is unrivaled and unmatched. Coach Ryan coached thousands of students and left a profound impact on the lives of countless players. Many of his former players have become educators and coaches themselves and attribute their career paths to Coach Ryan's positive influence on their lives.

Congrats to Coach Ryan on his legendary career, both on and off the field. He has made our central Illinois community a better place, and he will be missed on Friday nights. I congratulate him on his Hall of Fame career.

Go Redbirds.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I urge every one of my colleagues to use Black History Month to celebrate the contributions of people who came to this hemisphere not of their own free

will—in chains, in bondage, and then helped to make this country great.

It is important that we not only recognize them and their contributions but their example of resilience:

Philip Reid, who as an enslaved man was responsible for casting the statue which sits atop this building, and as a free man supervised the installation of the Statue of Freedom; Maggie Walker, who became the first woman to preside over a savings institution, which during the Great Depression consolidated to become the Consolidated Bank and Trust, which still exists today; Ralph Bunche, an American diplomat fundamental to the creation and adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights who later went on to be the first African American to win the Nobel Peace Prize for his negotiation efforts between Egypt and Israel; and William Leidesdorff of Saint Croix, master of shipping of vessels, rancher, gold miner, and one of the founders of San Francisco.

These Americans are quietly embedded in our Nation's history, but today, this month, we celebrate them, their work, and their dedication.

RECOGNIZING EINAR MAISCH

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Einar Maisch for his 34 years of service to the Placer County Water Agency. Water resiliency and infrastructure are pressing needs in northern California, and Einar has devoted his career to solving these critical issues.

As general manager, he worked to make PCWA the local leader in water rights by overseeing the clear and transparent budget process, increasing customer accessibility to the agency, and expanding its regional and national influence on water issues.

Throughout his long tenure, Einar has always prioritized the needs and interests of the customers and the community. His work will leave a lasting impact on water planning, resiliency, and management in northern California for decades come, and the north State is very thankful for all Einar has done.

Madam Speaker, I thank Einar, and I wish him the best of luck in his much-deserved and probably busier retirement. May he keep his knowledge and experience available to all of us.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gun Violence Survivors Week.

Every year, roughly 36,000 Americans are killed from gun violence. This is an

average of 100 Americans every single day. Also, there are close to 100,000 Americans injured every year from gun violence, yet we do very little to prevent these preventable injuries and deaths.

I am proud to come from a State with effective gun laws. In New Jersey, we have strong background checks, a ban on high-capacity magazines, and an extreme risk protection order for possible victims. That is why New Jersey has one of the lowest firearm death rates in America. If we had national laws such as the ones in New Jersey, we could save lives and spare families the hurt and horrors of gun violence.

HELPING VETERANS WITH TRAINED SERVICE DOGS

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, for far too long, we have failed to serve veterans struggling with the invisible wounds of war, veterans who nearly gave everything to us.

From veterans who served in Vietnam and Korea to those who have recently returned home from Afghanistan and Iraq, Congress has done too little to curb the often-devastating effect post-traumatic stress can have in the lives of the brave men and women who served our Nation in combat.

That is why I am proud today to rise in support of my colleague Representative STEVE STIVERS' bipartisan bill, which will help veterans in the Lowcountry and across this Nation manage the symptoms of post-traumatic stress by pairing them with trained service dogs.

With the help of a service dog, many veterans with severe post-traumatic stress are able to return to work, attend college, and spend more meaningful time with their families and their loved ones. The brave men and women who voluntarily raised their right hands and swore an oath to defend our Nation deserve nothing less than the opportunity to succeed when they return home.

The PAWS Act is a critical step in the right direction. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

AMERICANS WILL JUDGE

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, “I solemnly swear that in all things appertaining to the trial of the impeachment of Donald John Trump, President of the United States, now pending, I will do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws.”

That is the oath Senators swore on January 16. It is the oath created by Senators when they tried the first im-

peachment of a President in 1868. It is an oath rooted in the Revolution fought by their grandparents to create a republic of laws, not kings. It is an oath whose power derives from its common sense: that a juror must always be impartial for a trial to be fair. And it is an oath made necessary by the fact that Senators are not, as we are not, under normal circumstances, impartial in our work.

The words chosen for this oath recognize that when our Constitution calls Senators to try impeachment, it calls them away from their role as partisans. When that oath is taken, Senators are supposed to step back from the affiliation of party or political kinship with or opposition to the President on trial. They are required, as the oath plainly states, to “do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws.”

Madam Speaker, this afternoon, Senators will be asked to vote on the two Articles of Impeachment the House presented on abuse of power and the obstruction of Congress. After voting to refuse to hear evidence and call witnesses with pertinent information, nearly all Republican Senators have already announced that they will vote against the articles.

In doing so, many of them acknowledge that what President Trump did was wrong and inappropriate. They accept that it was wrong for him to withhold military aid to Ukraine until the President of that country promised to interfere in the American elections.

The evidence of President Trump's abuse of power and attempt to solicit foreign interference in the 2020 elections is clear enough that Republican Senators cannot and have not denied the facts, yet they cannot bring themselves to confront this President and are choosing party over country.

The Senator from Alaska, in explaining her decision to vote to block witnesses and evidence, tried to deflect responsibility from the consequences of her actions, writing: “I have come to the conclusion that there will be no fair trial in the Senate.” I agree with that. She further said: “It is sad for me today to admit that, as an institution, the Congress has failed.”

Madam Speaker, the Congress has not failed. The House did its job, whether you agree or not. In regular order, by a vote of this House, we impeached the President of the United States based upon our oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

The House did its job and did so with the solemnity required when undertaking the process of impeachment, which we did not seek but accepted as our responsibility under the Constitution. We held hearings, called witnesses, and subpoenaed documents. Many of the witnesses and documents, of course, were withheld by the White House.

It is the Senate that will fail if Senators do not uphold their oaths to im-

partial justice. It is the Senate, Madam Speaker, that will fail if it does not hold this President accountable for using a hold on military aid to compel an ally to interfere in our election for his own personal gain.

History will judge poorly those who choose fear of their party over the courage to do the right thing. Neither the Speaker nor myself, nor the whip, JIM CLYBURN, urged any member in our party to vote any way on impeachment. There was no lobbying. There was no pressure. Our members voted consistent with their oath of office and the conviction that that vote was required by that oath to protect and defend the Constitution.

Americans will judge. I am often asked why the House passed Articles of Impeachment even knowing that the odds were slim that Senate Republicans would set aside partisanship and hear the case as impartial jurors. It is because I know future generations will look back on this chapter in our history and ask: Who stood up for the Constitution and the laws? Who stood up for the values our Founders charged us to keep? Who refused to shrink from the heavy responsibilities of their oath? I can be proud that the House did its job, followed the law, defended our Constitution.

We did not convict; that is not our role. Essentially, what we said was there was probable cause that powers had been abused and certainly cause to see that the President refused to cooperate with the constitutional responsibilities of the House of Representatives.

I am also proud of the House managers, as all of my colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle are proud of our managers who made their case. They made their case with intellect. They made their case with evidence that had been adduced here in the House. They made their case and appealed to Senators to hold this President accountable, as our Founders intended.

Almost everybody has watched a trial either in person or on television. A trial is not an opening argument and a closing argument with nothing in between. Seventy-five percent of our people wanted to have witnesses because that was their understanding of what a trial is, not just argument at the beginning and argument at the end, but evidence for jurors who have pledged to be impartial to consider. Any judge in this country would agree that opening and closing statements alone are not a trial.

Nevertheless, the House managers proved their case. The truth is clear. The American people know what that truth is and know what this President has done. And they will remember who on this day abided by the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.